

Hamilton Field, Electric Facility Type B  
(Facility Nos. 551, 552)  
Crescent Drive northwest of San Jose Drive  
Novato  
Marin County  
California

HABS No. CA-2398-CE

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
ICE-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### HAMILTON FIELD Electric Facility Type B (Facility Nos. 551, 552)

HABS  
CAL  
21-NOVA,  
ICE-

HABS No. CA-2398-CE

**Location:** Hamilton Army Air Field  
Novato, Marin County, California  
Electric Facility Type B  
Gas Meter House and Switch Station  
Facility Nos. 551 and 552 (Crescent Drive northwest of San Jose Drive)

U.S.G.S.: Novato, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1954 (revised 1980)  
Petaluma Point, CA. Quadrangle (7.5' series), 1959 (revised 1980)  
UTM Coordinates: Zone 10; A: 542100/4213620; B: 544720/4212220;  
C: 542760/4210650; D: 541040/4212600

#### Significance:

The buildings are significant as examples of the application of an important architectural trend (Spanish Colonial Revival) adapted to reflect California's mission heritage in a dramatic departure from traditional military architecture. Buildings 551 and 552 are considered significant for their association with Air Force history in northern California, and with World War II actions in the Pacific Theater. Facility Nos. 551 and 552 contained the central components for providing the air base with electricity and gas throughout its history. They are significant for their architectural value as well as their historical contribution to the base.

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) for a comprehensive Statement of Significance and individual report HABS No. CA-2398-A for a condensed Statement of Significance.

#### Description:

This small complex of two Spanish Eclectic structures was completed in 1933. They are one story high with Mission tile gable roofs. The electric switching station measures 14 feet by 22 feet and the gas meter house measures 17 feet by 29 feet. Construction is 12-inch hollow tile bricks faced with cementitious stucco; foundations are concrete. Both structures have gable vents at each end consisting of three terra cotta four-inch pipes. The structures are connected by a stucco clad wall with a wood gate which forms a partial yard between the buildings. The gate hinges are decorative hammered iron.

Facility 551 has rectangular windows inset into recessed arches at each end. The windows are four- over two-light steel casements with the top four light opening inward. Decorative Spanish-style wrought iron bars cover each of these windows. Two steel

**HAMILTON FIELD**  
**Electric Facility Type B**  
**(Facility Nos. 551, 552)**

**HABS No. CA-2398-CE Page 2**

casement four- over two-light windows and a steel door are located on the south facade. The windows are not set into arches and have plain square metal bars over them.

Facility 552 has a steel door on the south side with a three-light transom window above it. A two-panel wood door is on the north side. No other openings are present.

A newer building is located adjacent to the west side of the south building. All three buildings are enclosed by a chain link fence.

**Historical Context:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

The gas and electric facilities were completed on January 18, 1933. It functioned as a major support facility for the housing area and still is in use today. Although functional as a support structure, the buildings have architectural detailing compatible with the main base theme.

**Sources:**

See narrative for Hamilton Field (HABS No. CA-2398) and Section B in report HABS No. CA-2398-F.

**Project Information:**

Hamilton Army Air Field is owned by various federal entities including the Department of the Navy, Department of the Army, United States Coast Guard, and General Services Administration (GSA). The Army/GSA parcels are being excessed and sold to private developers. The Navy property is included in Base Closure and Realignment actions.

As part of the Army's undertaking, it has been determined in consultation with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) that the excess sale will have an affect on properties at the air field, and that these properties are components of a district that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based on consultation with the OHP and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, pursuant to 36 CFR part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f), a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was entered into by the interested parties in March 1994. The agreement stipulated that prior to excess sale the Army must contact the HABS/HAER

**HAMILTON FIELD**  
**Electric Facility Type B**  
**(Facility Nos. 551, 552)**

**HABS No. CA-2398-CE Page 3**

division at the Western Regional Office of the National Park Service, San Francisco, California, to determine the appropriate level and kind of recordation for the subject properties. The MOA further stipulated that copies of the documentation be made available to the OHP and appropriate local archives designated by the OHP. This recordation has been prepared in order to meet those stipulations.

Text prepared by: Mary L. Maniery/Judith Marvin

Title: Historian/Architectural Historian

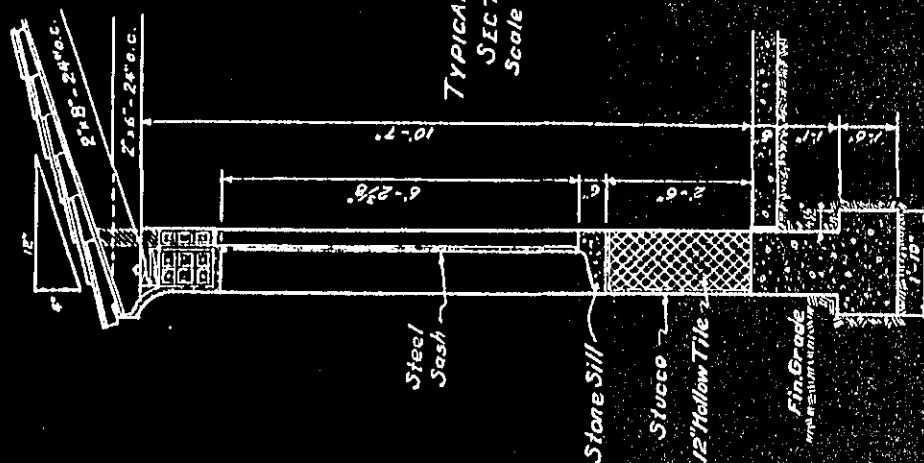
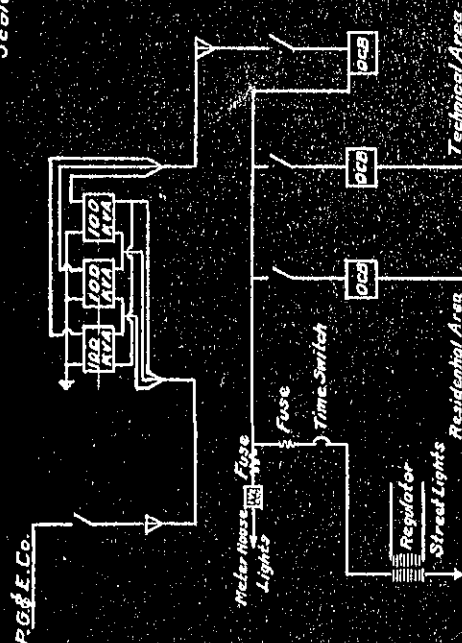
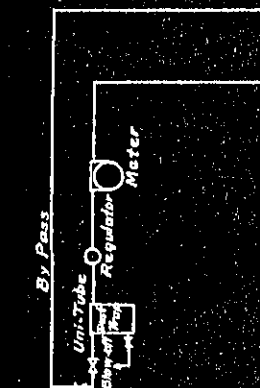
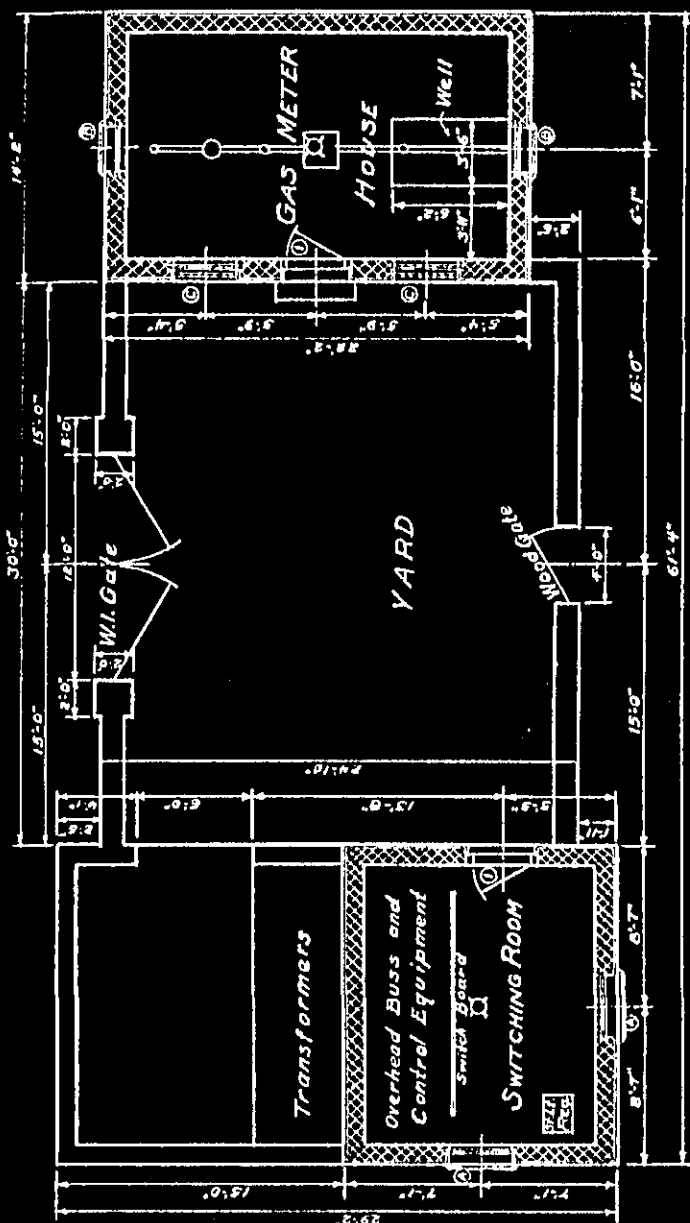
Affiliation: PAR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC., Sacramento, California

Date prepared: July 1995

Photography prepared by: David De Vries

Affiliation: Mesa Technical, Berkeley, California

Date of photographs: November 1994 and February 1995



LIST OF OPENINGS			
Mark	Width	Height	Type
A	3'-2"	6'-2 3/8"	Window
B	2'-1 7/8"	4'-8"	"
C	3'-2"	4'-8"	"
I	3'-0"	7'-0"	Door

O.Q.M.G. Plan 6754-200 and 6754-206 Rev 7/23/32

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE CONSTRUCTING QUARTERMASTER  
HAMILTON FIELD, CALIF.

**ELEC. SUB-STAT. & GAS METER HOUSE**

rawn <b>BFE</b>	<b>Q.M.C. Plan</b>
aced <b>BFE</b>	See Note
checked <b>G.S.</b>	Post plan
ate 10/9/94	373-10-33
	Bldg. No.
	et al.